

## REMARKS

Applicant requests favorable consideration and allowance of this application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

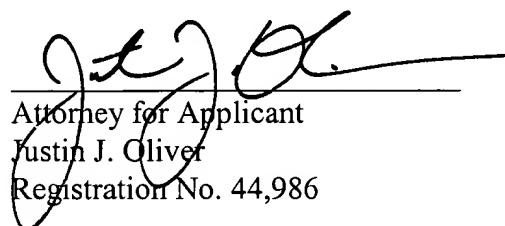
Claims 1-18 are pending in this application, with Claims 1, 8, 15, 16, 17 and 18 being the independent claims.

By this Amendment, Claims 1 and 8 have been amended. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added.

Applicant requests favorable consideration, withdrawal of the outstanding objections and rejections, and an early Notice of Allowance.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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